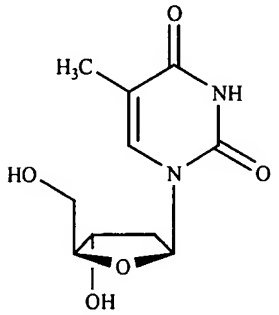
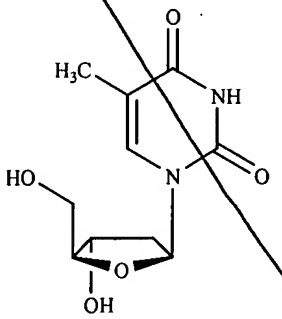
60. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination or alternation with an effective amount of ganciclovir, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

61. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a hepatitis B virus infection in a host comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination or alternation with an effective amount of ribavirin, or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

~~62. The method of any one of claims 40 - 61 wherein the host is a human.~~

Remarks

New claims 13-39 and 62 are directed to methods for the treatment of a hepatitis B virus infection in a human comprising administering β-L-2'-deoxycytidine or β-L-thymidine, optionally in combination or alternation with another effective agent for the treatment of hepatitis B virus infection, which finds support on page 4, lines 6-10 of the specification. New claims 40-61 are directed to methods comprising administering β-L-2'-deoxycytidine or β-L-

thymidine in combination or alternation with a specific effective agent for the treatment of hepatitis B virus infection, namely β-L-2-hydroxymethyl-5-(cytosin-1-yl)-1,3-oxathiolane (3TC), *cis*-2-hydroxymethyl-5-(5-fluorocytosin-1-yl)-1,3-oxa-thiolane (FTC), β-L-2'-fluoro-5-methyl-arabinofuranolyl-uridine (L-FMAU), β-D-2,6-diamino-purine dioxolane (DAPD), famciclovir, penciclovir, 2-amino-1,9-dihydro-9-[4-hydroxy-3-(hydroxymethyl)-2-methylene-cyclopentyl]-6H-purin-6-one (entecavir, BMS-200475), 9-[2-(phosphono-methoxy)ethyl]adenine (PMEA, adefovir, dipivoxil); lobucavir, ganciclovir or ribavirin. Support for these claims can be found on page 17, lines 15-19 of the specification.

This Preliminary Amendment is filed without fee. Although Applicants believe the amount of the fee is correct, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency to Deposit Account 11-0980.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 14, 2001

Enclosure: Marked up version of amendment

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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Specification

The paragraph on page 1, beginning on line 3, has been amended as follows:

This application is a continuation application of U.S. patent application number 09/371,747 filed on August 8, 1999, now allowed, which [~~This application~~] claims priority to U.S. provisional application **number** [~~U.S.S.N.~~] 60/096,110, filed on August 10, 1998 and **U.S. provisional application number** [~~U.S.S.N.~~] 60/131,352, filed on April 28, 1999.